In addition, the Government has taken necessary steps to augment the existing resources with highly advanced equipment available internationally, so as to facilitate safe and expeditious completion of the on-going demining process.

Special C.L. for Central Government employees

*304. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees are eligible for special C.L. when they participate in National level Sports meet as technical officials;

(b) if so, what is the procedure in obtaining the said leave;

(c) can Government refuse after participation in the sports even; and

(d) if so, what is the justification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (d) Technical officials concerned with the administration of the tournaments are being given the facility of availing of special casual leave.

Leave cannot be claimed as of right. When exigencies of public service so require, leave of any kind may be refused or revoked by the authority competent to grant it.

Bill to limit mining in Aravali hills

†*311. DR. PRABHATHAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to put any limit on mining in Aravali region;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring any Bill to ensure the limit of mining; and

(c) if so, by when the said Bill is proposed to be brought?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Mining activity is done in persuance of the mineral concession granted under the provisions of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and rules framed thereunder. Under section 3(e) of the MMDR Act, certain minerals are notified from time to time as minor minerals for which the States are empowered to frame rules for grant of mineral concessions, while for all other minerals (major minerals), the mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments subject to the rules prescribed in Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.

However, mining activities are also subject to other laws of the land including the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and rules framed hereunder and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and rules and notifications issued thereunder. As per the Gazette Notification SO 319(E) dated 7th May, 1992 (Aravali notification) amended *vide* Gazette Notification SO 248(E) dated the 28.2.2003, for specified areas of Aravali range, for all mining processes and operations except mining projects (major minerals) with lease area more than five hectares in the specified areas of the Aravali range, prior permission of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), is required, under Aravali notification. For mining projects (major minerals) with lease area more than five hectares prior permission of Ministry of Environment & Forests is required in accordance with MOEF notification No. SO 60(E) dated 27.1.1994 in Aravali hills as well as rest of India

(b) No, Sir. Ministry of Environment & Forests has informed that there is no proposal to bring any Bill to limit mining in Aravali region.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Multi-purpose Identity Cards

*312. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to issue multipurpose identity cards to all bonafide citizens above 14 years of age;

(b) whether Government was to launch a pilot project for issuance of l-Cards in seven border States; and

(c) if so, what is the status of this scheme?